Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for dividing user storage space of an optical disc, the method comprising acts of:

     dividing the user storage space into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write; and

     ~~the method comprising acts of:~~

     defining one or more availability parameter(s) which define(s) location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section in the user storage space.

2.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) incorporated in a standard format for the application concerned.

3.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) variable parameters whose value(s) is(are) stored in a predetermined area or location of <u>user</u> storage space of the disc.

4.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

6.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a length of an application-allowed storage section.

7.   (Currently amended) A user-writeable optical disc, <u>the optical disk comprising:</u>

_____ ~~having a~~ user storage space divided into one or more storage

sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write; and

~~the optical disc comprising~~ a predetermined area or location of the <u>user</u> storage space where one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) stored which define(s) location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section <u>in the user storage space</u>.

8.   (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

9.   (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

10.   (Previously presented)   The user-writeable optical disc

according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a length of an application-allowed storage section.

11. (Currently amended) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein the values of said parameters are stored as a table in a predetermined area or location of the user storage space of the disc.

12. (Previously presented) The user-writeable optical disc according to claim 11, wherein said table contains at least one entry defining the length of the table.

13. (Currently amended) A method of writing information to an optical disc comprising acts of:

determining the value of the availability parameter(s);

determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section of a user storage space on the basis of said availability parameter(s);

consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas of the user storage

space;

selecting, within said application-allowed storage section of the user storage space, a free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;

writing said information within said free area thus selected.

14. (Currently amended) The method of writing information to an optical disc according to claim 7, comprising acts of:

reading the availability parameter(s) from disc;

determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section in the user storage space on the basis of said availability parameter(s);

consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas in the user storage space;

selecting, within said application-allowed storage section, a free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;

writing said information within said free area thus selected.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein writing to an address outside said application-allowed storage section is avoided.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein, if it appears that the size of the free area is insufficient to accommodate the information to be written, the following acts are executed:

determining whether the application-forbidden storage section within the user storage area and outside said application-allowed storage section, either by itself or in combination with the free area already found, contains a storage space portion suitable and sufficient for accommodating the information to be written; and

amending at least one of said availability parameter(s) such as to increase the size of said application-allowed storage section.

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus, comprising a signal processing system capable of communicatingconfigured to communicate with a

disc drive system of a disc drive apparatus for writing data to and

reading data from an optical disc, ~~said disc drive system being~~

~~designed for executing a method for dividing~~ wherein said signal

processing system is configured to divide user storage space of the

optical disc into one or more storage sections where a specific

application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said

application is not allowed to write, ~~the method comprising an act~~

~~of defining~~and to define one or more availability parameter(s)

which define(s) location and/or extent of at least one application-

allowed storage section.